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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY USSR (Ukrainian SSR)

REPORT

SUBJECT 1. The City of Mukachevo and Vicinity
2. Miscellaneous Information on Bolekhov

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General

1. Mukachevo [N 48-27, E 22-43] had a population of about 75,000, half of whom were Hungarians and Ruthenians while others included Czechs and Russians. The city had an important wood and furniture industry, and it was a railroad center.

2. The town was located within the frontier zone and, although access to it was officially unrestricted, a secret, thorough check was in fact made on all persons entering and leaving. Strangers in the town, unknown to the plain-clothes men, were asked to identify themselves. In mid-1957, a senior Soviet officer was arrested at the Zvezda Hotel in Mukachevo allegedly for being a foreign agent. According to rumor, another officer who had shared a room with him at the hotel had searched his personal effects and discovered among them a disguise set (false beard, mustaches, etc.). He reported his findings to the security authorities. At about the same time, a surprise check was made of vehicles on a road near Svalyava [N 48-33, E 22-59] and two persons suspected of being spies were arrested; one of the men opened fire on the police.

3. During 1955/1956, geological exploration was underway in the Mukachevo-Khust [N 48-10, E 23-18] - Beregovo [N 48-13, E 22-39] triangle. Several teams of geologists were at work there for over a year; according to a railroad official, signs pointing to the existence of uranium were discovered in the area.

4. During the Hungarian uprising, a pro-Hungarian demonstration was held in Beregovo, which was inhabited by Hungarians and surrounded by Hungarian populated villages. Leaflets expressing solidarity with the Hungarian rebels were distributed. The police, composed of local Ukrainians, were replaced by personnel from the eastern parts of the Ukraine upon the outbreak of the Hungarian revolt.

5. The residents of Kosinyo, a border village also inhabited mostly by Hungarians, engaged in smuggling drugs from Hungary to the USSR.

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Military and Related Information

6. A large unit of the frontier guard was stationed in a suburb of Mukachevo, at the end of ulitsa Kirova. The headquarters of the unit was housed in a five-story building in the center of the camp. The tall aerials on top of the building indicated that this was also an important signals center of the frontier guard. There was a special dispensary in the town for personnel of the latter. The frontier guard hospital formerly located in Mukachevo had been transferred to Chernovtsy N 48-18, E 25-56 in 1956/1957.
7. Frontier guard units were also stationed in Beregovo, Svalyava, and Chop N 48-26, E 22-12. Chop had been greatly damaged during the war and had not been reconstructed. Entry to Chop required a special permit issued by the police, and frontier guard patrols required persons leaving the city's railroad station to produce these permits. There was much traffic through the Chop railroad station since it was passed by express trains from Germany and Hungary. The Chop-Lvov railroad line was electrified.
8. A military cantonment containing a motorized infantry unit was located one-half kilometer from Mukachevo, along the road to Uzhgorod N 48-37, E 32-18. It was near the bridge across the Latoritsa River.
9. Also stationed near the bridge, along the right-hand side of the road to Uzhgorod, was a radar unit.
10. A military transport unit was stationed near the local civilian hospital, at the corner of ulitsa Dukhnovicha.
11. A military hospital consisting of about thirty buildings extended about 500 to 600 meters along ulitsa Lenina, near the railroad station. It served all units in Carpatho-Russia.
12. A tank unit and a heavy artillery unit were stationed near the hill inside the town. On top of the hill was the Zamek castle.
13. A military airfield was located two or three kilometers from the town, to the left of the Mukachevo-Bergovo road coming from Mukachevo. A jet aircraft unit was stationed at the field, which had been adapted for jet traffic in 1957, when all piston-aircraft formerly based there were transferred to Stanislav N 48-56, E 24-43. Improvement of the field included the repair and extension of its concrete runways. MIG-15 FAGOT planes were frequently seen flying over the town and vicinity. A radar unit was also stationed at the field.
14. Numerous military installations had been erected in the forests around Svalyava and, according to rumor, comprised a whole military cantonment.
15. Complaints were made in 1957 by Soviet **Air Force** officers stationed in Mukachevo to the effect that American aircraft often flew over Soviet territory at such high altitudes that the Soviet **Air Force** was incapable of intercepting them.
16. A secret underground cable, used for communication between Moscow and the **Bloc** countries, passed through Mukachevo.
17. A large underground public shelter, still under construction in late 1957, was located at 3 ulitsa Lenina. A state delicatessen shop bordered on one side of the shelter, and a four-story building, once the property of a nobleman by the name of Schonbrun, was situated on top of the shelter. Judging by its construction, it was destined for atomic defense.

Public Facilities

18. The following public facilities in Mukachevo and vicinity were reported:
 - a. The city hospital, which had 500 to 600 beds and all of the usual departments.

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- b. A hydroelectric power station, which had been constructed between the villages of Turiya Bistraya and Turiya Remeti. A large part of its output was supplied to Hungary. [redacted] a considerable part of the power generated by the station was to be used for "security purposes". (This may be understood to mean that the electric power will be used in the exploitation of the uranium mines discovered in the area.) 50X1-HUM
- c. A new railroad line, which had been constructed from Mukachevo to Batyevo ~~N 46-41, E 35-50~~ during 1956/1957. A line parallel to the existing one to Beregovo was also constructed. The work was carried out by railroad troops.
- d. The Latoritsa River Bridge, which was made of reinforced concrete, was 100 meters long and about 12 meters wide. It had been destroyed during the war, was reconstructed in the early 1950's, and opened to traffic in 1957. 50X1-HUM
19. A legend and sketch of Mukachevo and a report on Bolekhov (N 49-04, E 23-52) [redacted]

Attachment 1: Legend and sketch of Mukachevo.

Attachment 2: A four-page report on Bolekhov and vicinity includes information on industrial installations, bridges (one in Bolekhov and one in Goshov), and an unspecified tank unit stationed in Bolekhov.

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Legend to Sketch of Mukachevo

1. Railroad station.
2. Fuel depot.
3. Locomotive repair shops (depo).
4. Grain stores (zagotserno).
5. Headquarters of the bridge guard.
6. Railroad workers' dispensary.
7. Military hospital.
8. Military cantonment.
9. Hill with the Zamek castle on top.
10. Nevskyo ulitsa.
11. District Military Commissariat (Rayvoenkomat).
12. Main post office.
13. District and City Militia Directorate.
14. Municipal Council and City Party Committee.
15. Stalin ulitsa.
16. Dukhnovicha ulitsa.
17. City pharmacy.
18. Interurban bus station.
19. District Party offices.

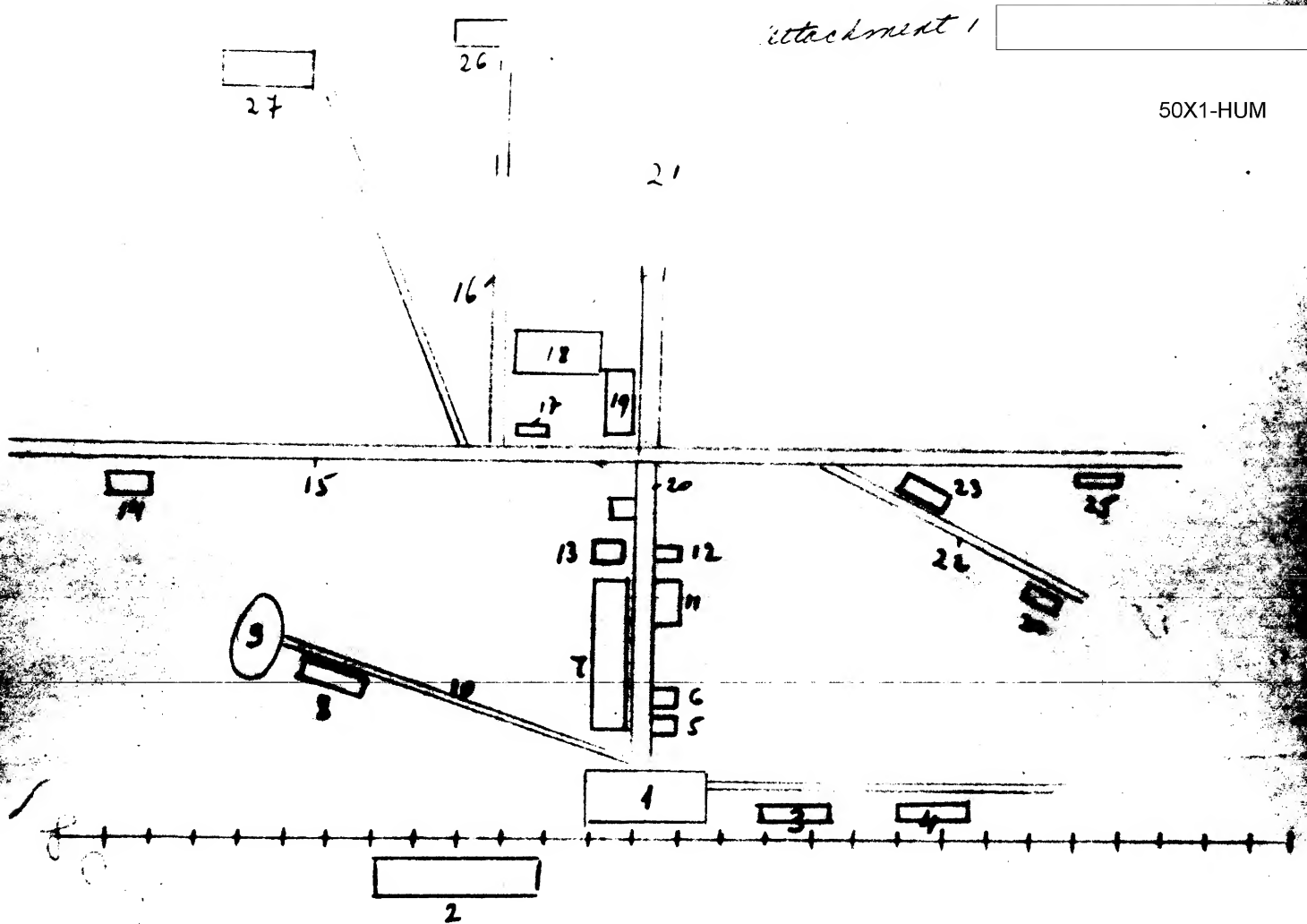
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- 20. Lenin ulitsa.
- 21. City market.
- 22. Kirov ulitsa.
- 23. Unidentified installation.
- 24. KGB offices.
- 25. Local prosecution offices.
- 26. Military unit.
- 27. City hospital.



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COUNTRY: USSR (Ukrainian SSR)
SUBJECT: Miscellaneous Information on Bolekhov

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1. Bolekhov (formerly Bolechow) had been a region center in the Stanislaw Oblast since 1948. Under Polish rule, it had had about 8,000 inhabitants, but in early 1957 its population was less. Most of the inhabitants of Bolekhov worked in the Dolshilov Kolkhoz, the only local collective. The town's industry comprised several modest plants, including the following:

- a. A tannery (Kosh-Zavod) on Dolshanska Street, a main street of the town, which employed about 300 workers.
- b. A salt mine (Sol Zaved) on the road to Stryy, about

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three km from the center of Bolekhov. The mine, which employed about 150 workers, had been in existence since before World War II.

c. A combine consisting of a sawmill with three frames and a furniture factory, located about one km from Bolekhov railroad station, by the side of the track to Stanislav. The plant, established before World War II, employed 500-600 workers.

d. A brick works, located near the salt mine. A pre-war plant, it employed about 150 workers.

e. The town power station, a small, old plant located near the railroad station.

2. The Bolekhov railroad station was a small building on the site of the prewar station, which was completely destroyed and had not been fully reconstructed. There were four tracks at the station, a loading and unloading yard and a warehouse for the storage of salt. Apart from these, there were no other installations.

3. The Sukel (Sukul?) River which flowed through the town was crossed by a road bridge, a part of the main Stanislav-Stryy

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highway. The bridge was about one km long and eight meters wide. The whole structure was of wood, including the supports, just as before World War II; there were no arches. The bridge was capable of carrying a heavy tank, but to avoid weakening the structure, tanks would usually ford the river, which was shallow at this point. During most of the year the width of the river did not exceed approximately 15 meters.

4. At the village of Goshov (N 49-02, E 23-53), about four km from Bolekhov, there was a large road bridge across the Svitsa River, on the Stanislav-Stryy highway. Nearby was a large monastery. This bridge, also a wooden structure, had an estimated length of 1.5 km. In early 1957 the construction of a concrete bridge was begun about 20-30 meters from the wooden bridge.

5. About one km from the Goshov road bridge, on the Stanislav-Stryy railroad line, there was a railroad bridge, about 1.5 km long.

6. An unspecified tank unit (Tankovaya Chast) had been stationed in Bolekhov since 1945. It belonged to an armored division whose headquarters were in Stryy; other units of the division were stationed in Drobovych and Sambor. The Bolekhov unit,

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commanded by a colonel (Polkovnik), had its barracks in the former German colony (Niemiecka Kolonia). The barracks consisted of two buildings: one, the former School of Forestry (Szkola Lasowa), was a large, three-story structure; the other had served as a law court. An ammunition depot, the former Evangelical Church, was located nearby. The unit's tank depot and tank repair shop were located on Voroshilova (formerly Risovska) Street, about one km from the center of town. (Voroshilova Street was the road leading to the villages of Tisov and Polenitsa.) The tank repair shop was housed in the former Kurzer tannery. The shop was about 100 m from the Sukel River and about 500 m from the ammunition depot. The tanks were kept in open sheds in a yard next to the tank repair shop. The Bolekhov unit had about 150 tanks, ~~described as~~ described as "heavy" (no specification of type), old, World War II vehicles. Every year, from the end of April until about October, the unit left Bolekhov for a summer camp in Yavorov at the Polish border. Each tank was transported on a three-axle flatcar.

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